

The U.S. Democracy And Human Rights Fund

What is the U.S. Democracy and Human Rights Fund?

The DHRF project finances small short-term, high-impact activities which target support at democratic institutions, political pluralism, and the protection and advocacy of human rights in African countries. The project, authorized in 1991 under the Foreign Assistance Act, compliments other funding mechanisms which support larger, multi-year initiatives as part of the U.S. Government's overall strategy to promote democracy and improved governance.

How much are the grants?

The maximum grant of DHRF funds is \$50,000; however, most grants are less than \$25,000. "Small" Projects cost \$25,000 or less. "Large" projects cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000. If an organization receives a DHRF grant, all activities and projects should be completed and all funds expended within one year.

How does an organization apply for DHRF funds?

An application form obtained from the Human Rights Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy, must be completed fully and submitted before the deadline. Proposals to be considered for the 2007 funding cycle should arrive by February 15.

Would my organization be eligible for a DHRF grant? All DHRF funded activities are based on specific requests from Nigerian non-governmental institutions. DHRF encourages activities or projects that promote:

- Research and training of civil and political rights

Adherence to the rule of law through a legal framework conducive to civil and political rights

- Development of democratic principles and institutions that promote human rights
- Development of human rights organizations

Increased participation of women and ethnic groups in the judicial system and political process

What does not qualify for a DHRF grant?

In general the fund is not intended to support on-going activities, or long-term institutional development, of organizations or government bodies, even though these may be in support of democracy or promotion of human rights.

The grants also cannot be used for: purchase of vehicles or property, or leasing on a long-term basis; activities of the police or military; support of specific political parties, influencing elections; intercontinental travel, including per diem and airfare; health-related projects, including medical services and population control (except projects promoting discontinuation of female genital mutilation); economic development projects; social or cultural rights activities or humanitarian assistance.

SAMPLE PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. Organization's Details:

Name of organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

2. Project Director.

Please give the name, title and phone number of person responsible for the activity:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

3. Please describe your proposed project in one sentence.

4. Description of the Organization.

Please provide a description of the organization including information on how long the organization has existed, where it is based, size, funding sources with estimated amounts, other activities undertaken, and prior management experience conducting similar activities.

5. Background Information of the Activity.

- a. Please give a brief description of the context, in which the activity is set, and the rationale and purpose for the activity. Include a clear statement of how such activities promote human rights or support political pluralism and creation of more open, democratic societies.
- b. Indicate how the activity addresses issues of democracy and human rights, and who will benefit from the activity. Also, state how many individuals will be **directly** impacted by the activity?

6. Description of the Activity and its Intended Impact. This section should:

- a. fully describe the activity,
- b. explain how and who will manage and implement the activity,

- c. identify any potential implementation problems and how they will be addressed and overcome,
- d. specify the estimated start and completion date of the activity,
- e. indicate if the impact of the activity is to effect change, and if so how, or to create awareness of democracy, civil society, human rights, free speech, open and free elections, governance, or other related issues.

7. Budget Format: All proposals should use the following sample budget format.

SAMPLE BUDGET FORMAT

	YEAR 1		
BUDGET LINE ITEMS	DONOR	GRANTEE MATCH	TOTAL
Supplies			
Conference			
Travel			
Printing			
Equipment			
TOTAL			

NOTE: The budget should be stated in local currency, and include notes explaining the costs associated with each of the budget line items, e.g. a list of individuals and the amount to be paid, basis for the travel costs, a list of equipment to be purchased and its estimated cost, and other relevant information to support the proposal's budget. Also, there should be a direct relationship between the activities described in the proposal and the budget.